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(54) Title: **METHODS OF PRODUCING TABLETED GUMS AND TABLETED GUMS SO PRODUCED**

(57) Abstract: Methods of producing tableted gums and tableted gums so produced are provided. The tableted gums of the present invention include a tableting media and a gum component that includes gum chips. The gum component and tableting media are mixed and further processed to form the tableted gum wherein a substantial amount of the gum component is concentrated in a top portion of the processed tableted gum.

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SPECIFICATION

METHODS OF PRODUCING TABLETED GUMS AND TABLETED GUMS SO PRODUCED

Background of the Invention

[0001] The present invention generally relates to gums. More specifically, the present invention relates to methods of producing tableted gums and tableted gums so produced.

[0002] A variety of different gums, such as chewing gums, bubble gums and products thereof, have been developed over the years to improve and enhance the quality of such products. Typically known and available gums include a variety of different shapes, sizes and colors. For example, it is generally known that individual pieces of gum can be formed into chunks, chips, sticks, tapes, shredded pieces, tabs, pellets or the like. Each of these known forms can themselves include a variety of different shapes and sizes.

[0003] With respect to gums that are formed into tablets (i.e., tableted gums), these types of gums, for example, can be made by mixing gum with a tableting powder. The mixture of gum and tableting powder is then further processed to form the tableted gum, such as commercially available tableted gums sold under the names "RAZZLES" and "BLOX".

[0004] In addition to gum products, a variety of other consumer products are generally known and available in a tableted form. For example, tableting is widely utilized in pharmaceuticals and confections to manufacture a variety of different tableted products. In general, the tableting process of such products is similar to that of other tableting processes such as those relating to tableted gums. For example, a tableted pharmaceutical product, in general, is made by processing a mixture of a pharmaceutical agent and a pharmaceutically acceptable tableting powder in a known way.

- [0005] In general, a common feature of known tableted products and processes thereof is that the mixture of the product component and tableting media is homogeneous to the extent that the size and shape of the product component and the tableting media are uniformly similar. Typically, the tableting media is in the form of a powder which is composed of a number of finely sized particles.
- [0006] In this regard, the product component, such as a pharmaceutical agent or a gum agent, is generally processed prior to mixing with the tableting media such that the product component has a similar shape and size characteristic as that of the tableting media unless, of course, the product component was manufactured in such form. For example, the product component is typically ground into a powder form similar in size characteristic to the tableting powder.
- [0007] One of the reasons that a homogeneous mixture of product and tableting media is preferred is that the resulting tableted product, in general, has a homogeneous make up similar to that of the pre-processed mixture. In this regard, the product component can be evenly dispersed throughout the tableted product.
- [0008] However, the homogeneous mixture, particularly a powder mixture of finely sized particles, can cause the tableted product to stick or adhere to surfaces of the tableting manufacturing equipment as the tableted product is processed unless additional measures are taken to minimize the sticking properties of the powder mixture. For example, specialized equipment has been developed and utilized for processing known tableted gums to address this issue. With increased sticking properties, the tableting mixture can make it more difficult to efficiently remove the end product (i.e., the tableted product) from the process equipment. It thus can create difficulties with processing the tableted gum, cleanup of the process equipment after use and the like.
- [0009] It is believed that the increased sticking is due to the small-sized particles of typical tableting mixtures, such as powder-sized particles. With smaller-sized particles, typical tableting mixtures, thus, have a high surface area which can enhance the sticking or adhering properties of the tableting mixture.

[0010] A need, therefore, exists to provide tableted gums that can be easily and readily manufactured and that can increase the level of enjoyment and excitement that one gains from chewing or blowing same.

Summary of the Invention

[0011] The present invention provides tableted gums, such as tableted bubble gum and chewing gum. The tableted gum of the present invention includes a gum component in the form of gum chips and a tableting media. The gum chips are generally larger in size than the particles of the tableting media, such as those of a tableting powder. In this regard, less force or pressure is required to process the mixture of gum chips and tableting media into a tableted gum as compared to, for example, the processing of a homogeneous tableting mixture of gum and tableting powder. Further, the larger sized gum chips tend to concentrate in a top portion of the tableted gum such that the resultant tableted gum displays the non-homogeneous characteristics of the gum chip and tableting media mixture.

[0012] To this end, in an embodiment of the present invention, a tableted gum is provided. The tableted gum includes a tableting media and a gum component including one or more gum chips.

[0013] In an embodiment, the tableting media comprises a tableting powder composed of particles that are smaller in size than the gum chips of the gum component.

[0014] In an embodiment, the gum component comprises about 40% to about 60% by weight of the tableted gum and the tableting media comprises about 40% to about 60% by weight of the tableted gum.

[0015] In an embodiment, the tableted gum comprises a top portion which contains a substantial amount of the gum chips of the gum component.

[0016] In an embodiment, the gum component is differently colored than the tableting media.

[0017] In an embodiment, the tableted gum further includes a food grade lubricant to facilitate forming the tableted gum.

- [0018] In another embodiment, a gum including a mixture of gum chips and tableting media in a tableted form is provided wherein the gum chips have an average particle size greater than an average particle size of the tableting media.
- [0019] In an embodiment, the average particle size of the gum chips ranges from about 0.5 mm to about 6.0 mm.
- [0020] In still yet another embodiment, a method of producing a tableted gum is provided. The method includes the steps of providing a gum component; processing the gum component to form one or more gum chips; mixing the gum chips with a tableting media; and processing the mixture of gum chips and tableting media to form the tableted gum.
- [0021] In an embodiment, the gum component is chilled prior to forming the gum chips.
- [0022] In an embodiment, the mixture of gum chips and tableting media is punched or pressed to form the tableted gum.
- [0023] It is, therefore, an advantage of the present invention to provide a tableted gum and method of producing same.
- [0024] Another advantage of the present invention is to provide a tableted gum that includes a mixture of gum chips and a tableting media, such as a tableting powder.
- [0025] A further advantage of the present invention is to provide a process for manufacturing a tableted gum that can readily process a mixture of gum chips and tableting media to form the tableted gum.
- [0026] A still further advantage of the present invention is to provide a tableted gum that includes a non-homogeneous mixture of gum chips and tableting media due to the larger sized gum chips as compared to the particles of the tableting media.
- [0027] Yet a still further advantage of the present invention is to provide a gum that creates increased levels of enjoyment and excitement during use.
- [0028] Additional features and advantages of the present invention are described in, and will be apparent in, the detailed description of the presently preferred embodiments.

Detailed Description of the Invention

[0029] The present invention provides tableted gums, such as tableted bubble gums, tableted chewing gums or the like. The tableted gum of the present invention includes a gum component in the form of gum chips and a tableting media. The gum chips are generally larger in size than the particles of the tableting media, such as those of a tableting powder. This can facilitate the ease in which the tableted gums are so produced as detailed below.

[0030] Further, the larger sized gum chips tend to concentrate in a top portion of the tableted gum such that the resultant tableted gum displays the non-homogeneous characteristics of the gum chip and tableting powder mixture. This can increase and enhance levels of enjoyment and excitement during its use. In this regard, a variety of differently colored gums can be easily produced by simply varying the color of the gum component and the tableting media. For example, the gum chips of the gum component can be a chocolate color and the tableting media a cookie-dough color, thus resulting in a gum that resembles a chocolate chip cookie. In another example, the gum chips can be orange in color and the tableting media can be white thus creating large blotches of color, such as orange, at a surface of the tableted gum.

[0031] In an embodiment, the tableted gum of the present invention includes a gum component and a tableting media. The gum component includes one or more gum chips. The gum chips of the gum component are generally larger in size than the particles that compose or make-up the tableting media, such as powder-size particles of a tableting powder. In this regard, the gum chips generally have a smaller surface area than that of the particles of the tableting media.

[0032] As compared to typically known tableted gum formulations, the mixture of the gum component and tableting media of the present invention, when processed, necessarily results in less sticking or adhering of the mixture to the tableting process equipment. It is believed that this is due to the fact that the tableting mixture of the present invention contains a non-homogenous blend of tableting media and gum chips that have a larger average particle size than the average particle size of the tableting media. As compared to typical tableting mixtures which contain a homogeneously-sized mix of gum and tableting powder, the overall surface area of the tableting mixture of the present invention

is smaller than that of known tableting mixtures due to the presence of the larger-sized gum chips. With a smaller surface area, less sticking of the mixture to the surface of the tableting process equipment would necessarily result upon processing the tableting mixture by punching, pressing or other like processes as detailed below.

[0033] It should be appreciated that the present invention is not limited by the size characteristics of the gum chips and the tableting media to the extent that the gum chips are larger in size than the particles of the tableting media, such as powder-sized particles of a tableting powder. In an embodiment, the average particle size of the gum chips ranges from about 0.5 millimeters (mm) to about 6.0 mm. The gum chip particles can be formed by any suitable process, preferably a chipping process, as detailed below. It should be appreciated that the particle size, unless indicated otherwise, is based on the maximum dimension of the particle. For example, the average particle size of gum chip particles which are rectangular in shape and have average dimensions of 3.2 mm x 3.2 mm x 1.4 mm is 3.2mm.

[0034] The tableted gum of the present invention can include a variety of different amounts of the gum component and the tableting media. In an embodiment, the gum component includes about 40% to about 60% by weight of the tableted gum, and the tableting media includes about 40% to about 60% by weight of the tableted gum. Preferably, the gum component includes about 40% by weight of the tableted gum, and the tableting media includes about 60% by weight of the tableted gum.

[0035] It should be appreciated that the tableted gum of the present invention can include a variety of other additional ingredients in addition to the gum component and the tableting media in order to facilitate processing of the tableted gum. In an embodiment, the tableted gum includes a food grade lubricant. The food grade lubricant can include any suitably known food grade lubricant, such as magnesium stearate, calcium stearate, stearic acid, carboxy methyl cellulose, like food grade lubricants or mixtures thereof.

[0036] In an embodiment, the lubricant preferably includes magnesium stearate in an amount that is 10% or less by weight of the tableting media, preferably a tableting powder. The lubricant can be added to the tableted gum in a variety of known ways. For example, it can be separately added to the mixture of the gum component and the

tableting media. Further, the lubricant can be included within the tableting media, such as commercially available tableting powders.

[0037] The tableted gum of the present invention can be produced or manufactured in a variety of suitable ways. In an embodiment, the gum component can be mixed with a tableting media in any conventional and suitable way. This mixture can then be fed into a punch machine or the like, such as a commercially available tableting machine sold under the name "STOKES", to form the tableted gum.

[0038] For example, the mixture of gum chips and tableting media can be added to a stamping cavity or other like device. The mixture can then be punched or pressed under a suitable force or pressure to form a compacted mixture of the gum chips and tableting powder thus forming the tableted gum. As previously discussed, the amount of sticking of the tableted gum of the present invention to the tableting process equipment, such as the cavity, is less than what would necessarily occur when tableting typical mixtures of gum and tableting powder.

[0039] It has also been found that the difference in the particle size of the gum components and the tableting media results in a non-homogeneous distribution of the gum component and tableting media within the tableting mixture. Upon placing the mixture into the process cavity, the larger sized particles of the gum component (i.e., the gum chips) tend to concentrate in a top region of the cavity. Upon compaction, the gum component or at least a substantial amount of the gum component remains in a top portion of the tableted gum. In an embodiment, the gum component is differently colored or has a different color than the tableting media. In this regard, the non-homogeneous color characteristic of the tableted gum can create and enhance enjoyment and excitement during use as previously discussed. In an embodiment, the gum component and tableting media have the same or similar color.

[0040] It should be appreciated that the tableted gum can include a variety of different and suitable components. In an embodiment, the tableted gum includes a gum component and a tableting media as previously discussed. It should be appreciated that the present invention can include a sugar or a sugar free tableted gum.

- [0041] The tableting media includes a variety of available and known tableting medias. Preferably, the tableting media includes a tableting powder. Typical tableting powders can include sucrose-based powders, dextrose-based powders, polyol-based powders, such as sorbitol-based powders, like tableting powders or combinations thereof. It should be appreciated that the tableting powder can include a variety of additional ingredients, such as flavors, colors, sugar and/or sugarless sweeteners, additives, like ingredients or combinations thereof.
- [0042] The gum component can include a variety of different components. It should be appreciated that the present invention can include any suitable gum provided that the gum can be processed into particles of requisite size. Preferably, the gum is a film forming type gum, generally referred to as bubble gum. Typically, bubble gum can be made from a standard formulation of bulk sweetener, gum base, corn syrup, softening agents, coloring agents, and flavoring agents. It should be appreciated that the gum component can be a sugar or a sugar free gum component. In an embodiment, the bubble gum is made from 60-80 percent bulk sweetener, 15-30 percent corn syrup, 1-5 percent softeners, 0.1-3 percent flavoring agents and 0.01-1 percent coloring agents.
- [0043] The gum component of the present invention can be produced by conventional techniques using standard equipment. In general, the gum component is manufactured by sequentially adding various gum ingredients to a commercially available mixer known in the art. After the ingredients have been thoroughly mixed, the gum mass is discharged from the mixer and shaped into the desired form such as by rolling into sheets. Generally, the ingredients are mixed by adding the gum base to the running mixer. The base may optionally be melted in the mixer. Color and emulsifiers may also be added at this time. A softener such as glycerine may also be added at this time along with syrup and a portion of bulking agent. Further portions of the bulking agent may then be added to the mixer. A flavoring agent is typically added with the final portion of the bulking agent. The entire mixing procedure typically takes from five to twenty-five minutes, but longer mixing times may sometimes be required. Those skilled in the art will recognize that many variations of the above described procedure may be followed.

[0044] As previously discussed, the present invention is not limited by the size of gum chips within the tableting mixture of gum and tableting media provided that the gum chips have an average particle size that is greater than the average particle size of the tableting media. In this regard, any suitable process, such as chopping, extrusion, slicing, scoring or the like, can be utilized to produce the gum chips provided that the gum chips are formed into gum particles of the requisite size.

[0045] In an embodiment, the gum chips are preferably formed by any known and suitable gum chipping process, such as by the process disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 5,318,784, the entire disclosure of which is herein incorporated by reference. In general, the gum chips can be formed by mixing gum ingredients in a conventional fashion, then sheeting, optionally scoring the gum and subsequently chipping the processed gum into chipped pieces. In an embodiment, the processed gum can be chilled or cooled at a suitable temperature prior to chipping the gum in order to facilitate such a process.

[0046] It should be understood that various changes and modifications to the presently preferred embodiments described herein will be apparent to those skilled in the art. Such changes and modifications can be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention and without diminishing its intended advantages. It is therefore intended that all such changes and modifications be covered by the appended claims.

Claims

- [c1] 1. A tableted gum comprising:
a gum component including one or more gum chips; and
a tableting media.
- [c2] 2. The tableted gum of claim 1 wherein the tableting media comprises a
tableting powder.
- [c3] 3. The tableted gum of claim 2 wherein the tableting powder is composed of
particles that are smaller in size than the gum chips of the gum component.
- [c4] 4. The tableted gum of claim 1 wherein the gum component comprises about
40% to about 60% by weight of the tableted gum.
- [c5] 5. The tableted gum of claim 1 wherein the tableting media comprises about
40% to about 60% by weight of the tableted gum.
- [c6] 6. The tableted gum of claim 1 wherein the gum component comprises about
40% by weight of the tableted gum and the tableting media comprises about 60%
by weight of the tableted gum.
- [c7] 7. The tableted gum of claim 6 wherein the tableted gum comprises a top
portion which contains a substantial amount of the gum chips of the gum
component.
- [c8] 8. The tableted gum of claim 7 wherein the gum chips are differently colored
than the tableting powder.
- [c9] 9. The tableted gum of claim 1 further comprising a food grade lubricant.
- [c10] 10. The tableted gum of claim 9 wherein the food grade lubricant is selected
from the group consisting of magnesium stearate, calcium stearate, stearic acid,
carboxy methyl cellulose and mixtures thereof.
- [c11] 11. The tableted gum of claim 1 wherein the tableted gum comprises a sugar
tableted gum or a sugar free tableted gum.

- [c12] 12. A gum comprising a mixture of gum chips and tableting media in a tableted form wherein the gum chips have an average particle size greater than an average particle size of the tableting media.
- [c13] 13. The gum of claim 12 wherein the average particle size of the gum chips ranges from about 0.5 mm to about 6.0 mm.
- [c14] 14. The gum of claim 12 wherein the gum chips comprise about 40% to about 60% by weight of the tableted gum and the tableting media comprises about 40% to about 60% by weight of the tableted gum.
- [c15] 15. A method of producing a tableted gum comprising the steps of:
providing a gum component;
processing the gum component to form one or more gum chips;
mixing the gum chips with a tableting media; and
processing the mixture of gum chips and tableting media to form the tableted gum.
- [c16] 16. The method of claim 15 wherein the gum component is chilled prior to forming the gum chips.
- [c17] 17. The method of claim 15 wherein the mixture of gum chips and tableting media is punched or pressed to form the tableted gum.
- [c18] 18. The method of claim 17 wherein the tableted gum comprises a top portion that is concentrated with the gum chips of the gum component.
- [c19] 19. The method of claim 18 wherein the gum component comprises a different color than the tableting media.
- [c20] 20. The method of claim 18 wherein the gum component and the tableting media have a same or similar color.
- [c21] 21. The method of claim 15 wherein the mixture of gum chips and tableting media includes a food grade lubricant to facilitate forming the tableted gum.

[c22] 22. The method of claim 21 wherein the food grade lubricant is selected from the group consisting of magnesium stearate, calcium stearate, stearic acid, carboxy methyl cellulose and combinations thereof.

[c23] 23. The method of claim 22 wherein the food grade lubricant comprises magnesium stearate ranging from about 10% or less by weight of the tableting media.

[c24] 24. The method of claim 15 wherein the gum component comprises about 40% to about 60% by weight of the tableted gum and the tableting media comprises about 40% to about 60% by weight of the tableted gum.

[c25] 25. The method of claim 24 wherein the gum component comprises about 40% by weight of the tableted gum and the tableting media comprises about 60% by weight of the tableted gum.

[c26] 26. The method of claim 15 wherein the gum chips have an average particle size that ranges from about 0.5 mm to about 6.0 mm.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

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U.S. : 426/3, 5, 285,454

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
NONE

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

NONE

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X --- Y	US 4,753,805 A (CHERUKURI et al) 28 June 1988 (28.06.88), see entire document.	1-5, 9-15, 17, 18, 21-24, 26 ----- 6-8, 16, 19, 20, 25
Y	US 5,318,784 A (REAM et al) 07 June 1994 (07.06.94), see entire document.	1-26
Y,P	US 6,322,828 A (ATHANIKAR et al) 27 November 2001 (27.11.01), see entire document.	1-26

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
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(54) Title: CHEWING GUM CONTAINING RANITIDINE

(57) Abstract

The present invention provides a chewing gum composition comprising a gum base, a non-hygroscopic bulking agent, a flavouring, a high-intensity sweetener and ranitidine, or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof and a process for its preparation.

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CHEWING GUM CONTAINING RANITIDINE.

The present invention relates to improvements in the formulation of the histamine H₂-receptor antagonist ranitidine, particularly for oral administration.

5 Ranitidine, N-[2-[[[5-(dimethylamino)methyl-2-furanyl]methyl]thio]ethyl]-N'-methyl-2-nitro-1,1-ethenediamine, and its physiologically acceptable salts are described and claimed in British Patent Specification No. 1565966, and a particular crystalline form of ranitidine hydrochloride is described and claimed in British Patent Specification No. 2084580. In both these specifications there is reference to formulations for oral administration, which may take the form of for
10 example tablets, capsules, granules, powders, solutions, syrups, suspensions, or tablets or lozenges for buccal administration.

Oral administration constitutes a preferred route for administering ranitidine. Ranitidine, however, in common with many drug substances, has an inherently bitter taste, and this constitutes a disadvantage with certain types of oral
15 preparation. The problems resulting from the bitter taste of ranitidine are particularly acute in chewable formulations.

Chewing gum compositions for the oral, systemic delivery of H₂ antagonists have not previously been described, although topical chewing gum compositions for the treatment of gingivitis or periodontitis containing H₂-
20 receptor antagonists are described generally in US5294433. Thus, compositions comprising 0.1% to 10% of an H₂ antagonist and a chewing gum carrier (comprising a gum base, a flavouring agent and a sweetening agent) are disclosed. There is no further teaching as to the nature of the chewing gum carrier, however, and chewing gum compositions containing ranitidine are not
25 specifically disclosed.

Chewable formulations are a particularly convenient form of oral presentation for patients who prefer not to take swallowable tablets, or find difficulty in swallowing them. A chewing gum formulation would be a particularly convenient way of administering ranitidine systemically, especially in the treatment of minor
30 conditions such as acid indigestion and heartburn. However, since chewing gums remain in the mouth for an extended period, such a formulation presents particular difficulties if the taste of ranitidine is to be effectively masked.

A further problem to be overcome if one is to arrive at a sufficiently stable ranitidine chewing gum is due to ranitidine's tendency to degrade in the presence of moisture. Conventional sugar-free chewing gum compositions contain large amounts of hygroscopic sugar alcohols which result in the gum having a high moisture content, around 3 to 5%, which is further increased by moisture uptake on storage.

An additional problem with conventional chewing gums lies in the method used to prepare them. This involves mixing a heated chewing gum base with an aqueous solution of the sugar alcohol.

Substantially anhydrous chewing gum compositions have been described, for example US3262784 relates to dry, granular chewing gum compositions comprising a chewing gum base and sugar granules which produces chewing gum granules which can be compressed into shape.

US4961935 describes anhydrous chewing gum compositions comprising a gum base, a non-hygroscopic bulking agent, such as an isomalt, a softening agent and a sweetening agent. The chewing gum is prepared by heating the gum base at 60 to 120°C until molten, mixing with the other ingredients whilst still in the molten state and then forming the gum into shapes.

Thus, according to the method of US4961935, the chewing gum ingredients are exposed to a period of working at elevated temperature which could result in degradation of heat-sensitive components. Since it is known that the degradation of ranitidine is accelerated by heat, it would be advantageous to avoid excess exposure to heat during the formulation process.

A ranitidine chewing gum composition has now been discovered which avoids the problems of exposure to moisture and heat, thus ensuring the stability of ranitidine, and where the bitter taste of ranitidine is effectively masked and which provides a rapid and effective release of ranitidine resulting in advantageous bioavailability.

Thus, the present invention provides a chewing gum composition comprising a gum base, a non-hygroscopic bulking agent, a flavouring, a high-intensity sweetener and ranitidine, or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof.

5 Ranitidine may be employed in the compositions according to the invention in the form of either its free base or a physiologically acceptable salt. Such salts include salts with inorganic or organic acids such as the hydrochloride, hydrobromide, sulphate, acetate, maleate, succinate, citrate, tartrate, fumarate and ascorbate salts. A particularly preferred salt of ranitidine is the hydrochloride.

10 The gum base may be selected from any suitable water-insoluble gum base known in the art and includes those gum bases utilised for chewing gums and bubble gums. Thus, for example, the gum base may comprise a polymer, such as an elastomeric polymer, resins, waxes, glycerol esters of edible fatty acids, plasticizers, mineral adjuvants such as talc, and other conventional additives such as antioxidants. A particularly suitable gum base is the commercially available "DELTA T".

15 The gum base suitably comprises 15 to 20% of the total composition, for example around 18%. The ratio of gum base to non-hygroscopic bulking agent is suitably in the range 1:3 to 1:5, for example 1:4.

20 The non-hygroscopic bulking agent is preferably an isomalt, i.e. a mixture, such as a racemic mixture of 1-O-alpha-D-glucopyranosyl-D-mannitol and 6-O-alpha-D-glucopyranosyl-D-glucitol, for example the commercially available "PALATINIT" or "PALATINOL". The non-hygroscopic bulking agent suitably comprises 60 to 80% of the total composition, for example around 70%.

The flavouring in the compositions according to the invention is a strong flavouring such as fruit flavours and natural or synthetic mint or peppermint flavours. Strong mint or peppermint flavourings are preferred.

25 The chewing gum composition also optionally contains an acidifiant agent such as sodium citrate.

The high intensity sweetener includes saccharine and cyclamic acid and their various salts or, more preferably, dipeptide sweeteners such as aspartame.

30 The chewing gum composition may also include a lubricant such as magnesium stearate.

Thus, in a preferred aspect, the present invention provides a chewing gum composition comprising a gum base, a non-hygroscopic bulking agent, e.g. an isomalt, a flavouring, e.g. a strong mint or peppermint flavouring, a high intensity sweetener, e.g. aspartame, a lubricant, e.g. magnesium stearate and ranitidine, or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof, e.g. the hydrochloride salt.

It will be appreciated that the chewing gum compositions according to the invention are for the oral, systemic delivery of ranitidine and not topical delivery. It will also be appreciated that the instant chewing gum compositions are essentially sugarless.

The chewing gum compositions according to the instant invention are preferably in the form of chewing gum tablets.

The amount of ranitidine, preferably in the form of a physiologically acceptable salt, particularly ranitidine hydrochloride, in the composition according to the invention is preferably in the range of 10 to 800mg per dosage unit (for example per chewing gum tablet), e.g. 20 to 600mg, more preferably 25 to 300mg, such as 25, 75, 125 or 150mg, expressed as the weight of free base.

The unit dose (for example contained in one chewing gum tablet according to the invention) may be administered up to, for example, 6 times a day depending upon the unit dose used, the nature and severity of the conditions being treated, and the age and weight of the patient. Thus, for example, in the treatment of minor conditions where there is an advantage in lowering gastric acidity such as, for example, acid indigestion, over-indulgence of food or drink, acid stomach, sour stomach, waterbrash/regurgitation, heartburn, such as episodic heartburn, nocturnal heartburn, and meal-induced heartburn, gastritis and dyspepsia, lower and more frequent doses of ranitidine may be used, for example doses in the range of 10-150mg, e.g. 25-75mg ranitidine expressed as the weight of free base, administered up to 6 times a day as and when required. For more serious conditions such as duodenal and gastric ulceration, reflux oesophagitis and Zollinger-Ellison syndrome, higher and less frequent doses of ranitidine will be employed, for example 75-600mg, e.g. 150mg unit doses administered one to four, preferably once or twice, daily.

The chewing gum compositions according to the instant invention may be prepared by heating the gum base until molten according to conventional

procedures, for example at around 70°C, allowing the gum base to cool, yet maintaining it in its molten state, for example at around 40-45°C, adding the preheated bulking agent, for example portion wise, e.g. 60% of the total amount, and at a temperature of, for example 30-35°C, and blending and cooling the mixture, for example at about 30°C. The remaining bulking agent is added, for example the remaining 40%, and the mixture is further blended and cooled, for example at around 25°C, at which stage a free flowing powder is produced.

The step of cooling and blending the gum base/bulking agent mixture to produce a free flowing powder is novel and constitutes a further aspect of the invention.

The free flowing powder is then blended with the ranitidine and other ingredients according to conventional anhydrous blending procedures. Thus, for example the gum base/bulking agent mixture is dry blended or dry granulated with ranitidine followed by the remaining ingredients and then the mixture is compressed into tablet shapes.

The following table illustrates non-limiting examples of the pharmaceutical compositions according to the invention.

In the following examples the gum base used is DELTA T, available from Cafosa Gum SA, Barcelona, Spain, and the isomalt is PALATINIT. DELTA T and PALATINIT are tradenames.

Ingredient	Example 1 mg/tablet	Example 2 mg/tablet	Example 3 mg/tablet	Example 4 mg/tablet
Ranitidine HCl	28.0	84.0	84.0	168.0
Gum Base	534	534	534	575
Isomalt	2100	2136	2136	2140
Peppermint Flavour	150	150	150	200
Sodium Citrate	-	-	30	30
Aspartame	10	22	22	25
Magnesium Stearate	40	44	44	60

CLAIMS

1. A chewing gum comprising a gum base, a non-hygrosopic bulking agent, a flavouring, a high-intensity sweetener and ranitidine, or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof.
- 5 2. A chewing gum according to claim 1 wherein the gum base comprises 15 to 20% of the total composition.
3. A chewing gum according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the non-hygrosopic bulking agent comprises 60 to 80% of the total composition.
- 10 4. A chewing gum according to any of claims 1 to 3 wherein the ratio of gum base to non-hygrosopic bulking agent is in the range 1:3 to 1:5.
5. A chewing gum according to any of claims 1 to 4 wherein the non-hygrosopic bulking agent is an isomalt.
- 15 6. A chewing gum according to claim 5 wherein the isomalt is a mixture of 1-O-alpha-D-glucopyranosyl-D-mannitol and 6-O-alpha-D-glucopyranosyl-D-glucitol.
7. A chewing gum according to any of claims 1 to 6 containing ranitidine hydrochloride.
8. A chewing gum according to any of claims 1 to 7 containing 25 to 300mg ranitidine, expressed as the weight of free base, per dosage unit.
- 20 9. A chewing gum according to any of claims 1 to 8 in the form of a chewing gum tablet.
- 25 10. A process for the preparation of a ranitidine chewing gum composition as defined in claim 1 which comprises cooling and blending a mixture of the gum base and bulking agent to produce a free flowing powder and blending with the ranitidine and other ingredients.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 6 A61K9/00 A23G3/30

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 6 A61K A23G

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 294 433 A (SINGER ET AL.) 15 March 1994 cited in the application	1,8,9
Y	see column 20, line 33 - line 43; claims 1-4 ---	10
X	CA 2 068 366 A (FAULDING (F.H.) & CO. LTD AUSTRALIA) 11 November 1992 see page 8, line 1 - line 20; claim 28 ---	1
Y	DATABASE WPI Week 6800 Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; AN 66-15950f XP002028473 & JP 40 003 463 B (TAISHO PHARM. CO. LTD.) , 1968 see abstract --- -/--	10

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	DE 28 08 160 A (NORDSTRÖM) 30 August 1979 see claims 1-3 ---	10
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No.

PCT/EP 96/05468

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